

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2531
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
NORTH EAST VALLEY AUTHORITY
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Committee of experts to examine the feasibility of setting up a North Easy Valley Authority has since submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations of the said Committee and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to support water harvesting to farmers of North Eastern States particularly those belonging to SC/ST community; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) The proposal for constitution of North East Water Resources Authority (NEWRA) was prepared by the Ministry of Water Resources during 2005 and the same was circulated to the concerned Ministries and State Governments. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh (AP) had some reservations on the jurisdiction, structure etc. of the proposed authority. Accordingly, a Working Group consisting members from Prime Minister's Office, Planning Commission, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Water Resources was constituted in Feb. 2006 to prepare a set of options taking into consideration the objections of the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh to NEWRA and provide an adequate compensatory mechanism to the state. The report of Working Group giving its recommendations for modification in structure, functions and incentives considering reservations of the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh was submitted in July, 2006. The report was discussed in an inter-ministerial meeting on 18.8.2006 convened by the Principal Secretary to the Hon`ble Prime Minister. Subsequently, a High Level Group (HLG) chaired by the Hon`ble Minister of Water Resources and consisting of Hon`ble Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, Hon`ble Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Hon`ble Member (Water Resources and Energy), Planning Commission was constituted in December 2006 to hold discussions and develop a consensus on utilizing the hydro power potential of Arunachal Pradesh and integrated development of the region through the setting up of NEWRA. A meeting of HLG has been held. It has been decided to continue the discussions on the issue.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. In accordance with the Budget Speech 2004-05 of Hon`ble Finance Minister, a `Water Harvesting Scheme for SC/ST farmers` was approved for Rs. 49 crores to provide 24,500 water harvesting structures at an average cost of Rs. 20,000/- in the country which inter-alia included North Eastern States. The main objective of the scheme was to provide irrigation facilities to SC/ST farmers in their farmlands. The details about year wise physical and financial progress of the scheme related to the eight North Eastern States are given in Annex-I.